

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 12, 18-20, and 25-27 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein.

Claims 13-17 and 21-24 have been withdrawn.

Claim 28 has been added, no new matter has been introduced.

Claims 1 and 6 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-11, 13-17, 21-24 and 28 are currently pending.

II. Restriction Requirement

Applicants traverse the finality of the Examiner's determination regarding claims 13-17 and 21-24. Claim 1 is generic to these claims and Applicants reserve to right to rejoinder if a generic claim is finally allowed. Claims 12, 18-20, and 25-27 as directed to a separate invention, have been cancelled.

III. Status of the Specification

The Specification has been amended to clarify that Figure 18 illustrates the present invention. Support for the amendments can be found at least at page 28, lines 23-25 and page 32, line 23 to page 33, line 5. No new matter is added.

IV. Objections to Drawings

The drawings stand objected to for failing to include the label -Prior Art—on Fig. 18. Applicants respectfully traverse because Figure 18 does not illustrate the prior art, but part of the present invention. The Specification has been amended to clarify this and support can be found at least at page 28, lines 23-25 and page 32, line 23 to page 33, line 5, as noted above. Thus, Fig. 18 was not amended.

Withdrawal of the objection to the drawing is respectfully requested.

V. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

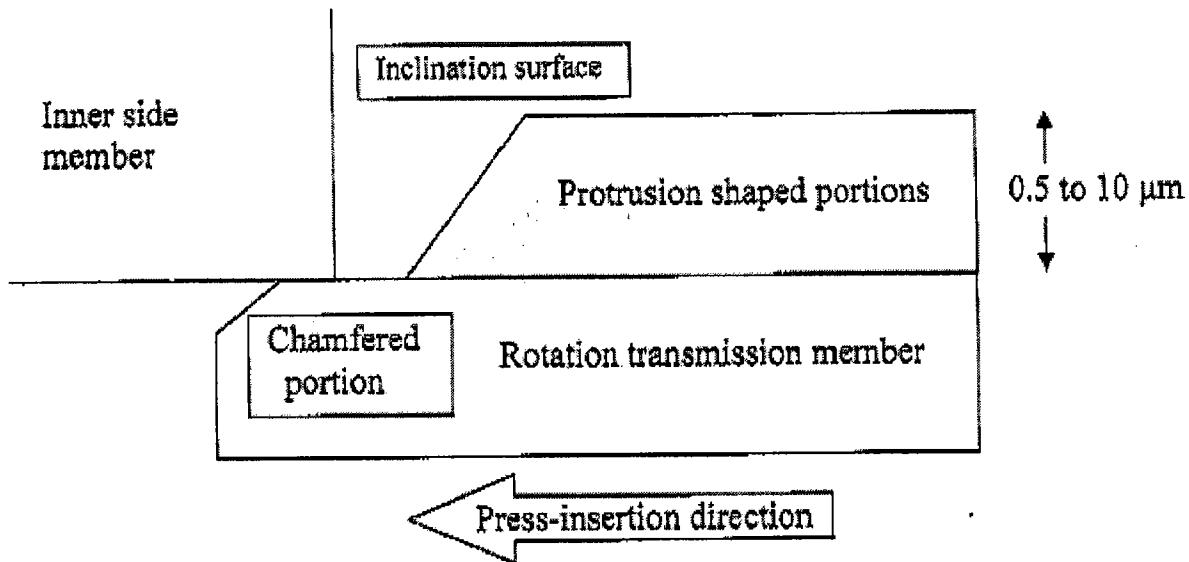
Claims 1-4, 6-8, and 10-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by French Patent No. FR 2 580 341 to Mazzorana. Claims 5 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mazzorana in view of the Examiner's statement of ordinary skill in the art. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Independent claims 1 and 6 have been amended to recite:

the height of the protrusion shaped portions from the ring-shaped surface is 0.5 to 10 μm ; and ... [the] front end surfaces in a mess-insertion direction of the protrusion shaped portions incline toward the rear in the press-insertion direction from the inner circumferential surface to top ends of the protrusion shaped portions.

Thus, the present invention has an advantage that the protrusion-shaped portions bite into the outer circumferential surface of the press-inserted inner side member and there is no cutting of the inner side member.

To further clarify this point, the present invention is schematically shown in the following figure, illustrating the inner circumferential surface of the through hole of the present invention. In this figure the protrusion shaped portions are magnified.



In contrast, the object of Mazzorana is to allow an axial and rotational connection between an outer component and an inner component. In order achieve the object, Mazzorana has a feature in that the outer component has internal teeth and an annular chamber. Mazzorana neither discloses nor suggests the claimed feature above. In Mazzorana, the gear is fitted onto the end of the shaft, so that the teeth detach, from the material of the shaft, chips which become housed, rolling up on themselves, in the annular chamber of the gear. Accordingly, Mazzorana cuts the shaft. The advantage of Mazzorana differs from the present invention. Thus, Mazzorana does not teach or suggest all of the elements of claim 1, either alone or in combination with the Examiner's statement of skill in the art. Claims 2-5 and 7-11 depend from the independent claims and are allowable based at least on the arguments above.

VI. New Claim

Claim 28 has been added and depends from claim 1. Claim 28 is allowable based at least on its dependency.

CONCLUSION

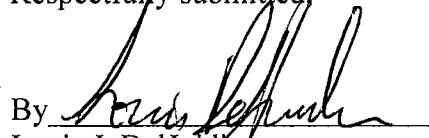
In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below if the Examiner believes any issue can be resolved through either a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment.

It is believed that no fee is required for these submissions. Should the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determine that additional fees are owed or that any refund is owed for this application, the Commissioner is hereby authorized and requested to charge the required fee(s) and/or credit the refund(s) owed to our Deposit Account No. 04-0100.

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Respectfully submitted,

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